

Message Text

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43

ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 JUSE-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /021 W

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O R 031810Z OCT 75 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0341

INFO DEA HDQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 8706

S/NM FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE: SER/INC FOR WAMPLER:

DEA FOR EOI CUSACK

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: GOM ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

REF: STATE 231767(NOTAL)

1. DCM BRANDIN, DRD HEATH (DEA) AND NARC. COORD. MET WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA EVENING OF OCTOBER 2. IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS POSED IN REFTTEL, AG MADE TWO IMPORTANT POINTS: A. IF GOM USES HERBICIDES IN CAMPAIGN, THEIR EMPLOYMENT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE "MASSIVE"; AND IT WOULD BE DESIGNED TO COMPLEMENT, NOT REPLACE, THE USE OF HELICOPTERS AND TRADITIONAL DESTRUCTION METHODS. THEREFORE, AG ASKED THAT WE PROCEED WITH PROCUREMENT OF TWO REPLACEMENT 212S ASAP.

B. THE AG EXPRESSED FULL UNDERSTANDING OF NEED TO BEGIN INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID PRESENT CLASS WOULD GRADUATE FROM MFJP TRAINING ACADEMY ON OCT. 31 (SOME 75 TO 80 AGENTS), AND WOULD BE IN PLACE BY MID-NOVEMBER, READY TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR THE INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN IN ALL ZONES. (COMMENT: WE DO NOT DOUBT THE AG'S INTEREST IN BEGINNING THE CAMPAIGN AT AN EARLY DATE, BUT MUST MAINTAIN A FINGERS-CROSSED ATTITUDE CONCERNING HIS ABILITY TO TRANSLATE THIS INTO A TRULY EFFECTIVE EARLY

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STARTUP.)

2. CONCERNING THE TWO RECENT HELICOPTER CRASHES, THE AG AGREED THAT ONE OF HIS PILOTS BE SELECTED FOR THE SIX-MONTH SAFETY OFFICER COURSE IN CALIFORNIA.

3. BASED ON FOREGOING, MISSION BELIEVES THERE EXISTS URGENT NEED FOR TWO REPLACEMENT BELL 212 HELICOPTERS, AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THEIR PROCUREMENT ASAP.
JOVA

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